

Technical Session V
Seed Procurement & Extraction Costs at Saratoga Nursery
Fall of 1964

Charles Frommer - New York

These costs were based on a cone collection of 7,052 bushels that yielded 5,327 pounds of seed. The cones were from a variety of species collected throughout the States

The cost of cones from private collections (obtained from private individuals and seed dealers) was based on actual per-bushel costs delivered to the nursery. The cost of cones collected by State crews was based on actual man-day costs as submitted by one of the Forest Districts and applied to the same species collected on other Forest Districts throughout the rest of the State. The cost of cones collected by the nurseries was based on actual man-day costs plus travel time to and from the collection site.

Transportation costs for private collections were part of the initial cost of the cones. Transportation costs for Forest District collections were based on a figure of \$.15 per mile (round trip plus one man-day of wages for the driver). Transportation costs for nursery collections were also figured as \$.15 per mile. The driver's wages were already included as part of the collection cost. These cones were brought to the nursery every evening when the crews returned.

Extraction costs include fuel, used to heat the kiln, and the actual man-day costs for each extraction operation, such as cone handling, kiln drying, seed extraction, dewinging, cleaning, seed drying, bottling, and transportation to the seed vault. The man-day costs were broken down by species for each extraction operation within a species. (White pine was the only species that did not go through the normal extraction cycle. These cones were allowed to air dry in the extraction plant and, therefore, do not reflect the kiln drying costs.)

An overhead figure of 10% was added to cover supervision.

The following table lists the species processed, and the yields and final costs per pound of seed.

Table I

Species	Cones	Seed	Final Cost/Lb. of Seed
White Pine (private)	1115 bu.	663 lbs.	\$ 2.91
Scotch Pine (state)	568 "	389 "	19.82 *
Norway Spruce (state)	2190 "	2021 "	2.53
Norway Spruce (private)	2309 "	1383 "	4.33
Larch (state)	538 "	610 "	14.85 **
Balsam Fir (private)	257 "	197 "	4.53

* / ** High costs noted. Explained as follows:

- * The higher cost of the Scotch pine seed is due, in part, to hand picking (the other species are collected from squirrel catches). The extraction costs are also slightly higher.

- ** The high cost of the larch seed is due to the small size of the cones. Considerable time is required to gather a bushel. The extraction costs of this species are also slightly higher.